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INFO: DCIM  
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TO : Chief, EE

FROM : Chief of Station, Germany

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/CARE

specific— Herbert BURKHARDT Case

Reference: FRAN-1721, 25 July 55

Attached hereto is an edited stenographic copy of the briefing given by  
to General Phillips on 25 July on this case.

APPROVED: [ ]

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23 July 1953

CASE FILE

1. On 30 June, this year, OCA was informed by the SO, Bonn, that they were planning a large roundup on the 2d of July. A roundup of spies, no details were given at this time. On the 2d of July, our Pullach office informed us that this roundup was one started on the basis of information given by one Herbert EPPENBERG, alias WEINMANN, who is in prison on the basis of old "Blackmark" charges, and he was offering information on persons in contact with the SRG in return for his freedom from prosecution. Two of the persons indicated by WEINMANN as SRG agents were employees of the GRENZ organization, Robert GRENZ and Ludwig GRENZ. On the 7th of July, our CIG Liaison Officer learned from CIG Headquarters that the German authorities in conjunction with KFI and the GRENZ Organization had conducted a so-called "sweep operation" on the weekend of 2/4 July, rounding up fifteen (15) people, including the two above mentioned SRG people. On the 7th, I was seeing Dr. KUMMER, chief of the SO. I was him periodically on matters of common concern which mostly included exchange of basic information and at this time, he told me a capsule account of this roundup. He volunteered the fact that the two GRENZ men had been arrested and he gave a general account of WEINMANN's disclosures. I asked him immediately if there was any U.S. security aspect to this case. He said, "yes and no." Yes, in that one ~~person~~ <sup>individual</sup> employee of the German Post Office in Frankfurt had admitted his passing of telephonic directions; but that other than this and the two GRENZ people, there were no U.S. security aspects apparent at this time but that the GRENZ men had made no admissions, but he said this was a tentative judgment, that the information was being evaluated by the SO people and by the GRENZ people. He said, however, there was no doubt but that ALBERT was in touch with the SRG alias WEINMANN, the initial informant leading to this roundup, had actual contact with an SRG case officer, whom WEINMANN knew only as BERGER, who had given money to ALBERT in the woods near Frankfurt.

2. I saw EPPENBERG a couple of times after that and he really had nothing to add until the 19th of July. On the 19th of July, he gave me a list of fifteen (15) arrestees; the names of which I have here, but I will, for the sake of brevity, give them to you in writing; some of them had admitted their SRG association, others had denied it. ALBERT, the principal witness in this whole thing, hainged himself on the 14th of July. The other GRENZ man, VALENTIN, had and has consistently denied any SRG contact. In addition to this, EPPENBERG gave me the following information which he cautioned was very vague and incomplete; he said that they were trying through further analysis of the material to pin it down. There is a female language instructor in Oberammergau who is an alleged SRG informant; also a male Russian truck driver in Oberammergau who had given WEINMANN information on the sources he contacted there. They have no further identification on either of these people. There was a married female employee of an un-named American hotel in Garwisch who was alleged to be a Russian agent (also); and thirdly, an American enlisted man allegedly

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with CIG in Wiesbaden, is supposed to be in his contact. This CIG's headquarters are believed to be in the vicinity of Ludwigstrasse 2, in Wiesbaden. Now, let me put the story together for you a little bit.

3. ALBERT was a GELLEN case officer. Precisely what his duties were at the time we don't know. Pallasch is putting them together for us. He reported a large amount of the material to GELLEN and there was a large amount of material found in ALBERT's home, at the time of his arrest. A study of these two sets of material showed the following facts:

ITEM 1. ALBERT received reports regularly from one Heinrich SCHMUTZ, a retired KRIPO man, living at Schulstrasse 1, in Schlangenbad, which is near Frankfurt. SCHMUTZ was reportedly serving with a US Intelligence office headed by a Colonel THOMAS, described as being two (2) meters, five (5) centimeters tall, very funny, but not fat. According to SCHMUTZ, information, this office was gathering information on the following targets: The Haim case; the BLANK office; Department VI (Public Safety) of the Ministry of Interior; the GELLEN Organization; the KAISER Ministry; the BIV; and the SO. The nature of the information contained in these reports made it apparent that the office of Col. THOMAS was concerned primarily with the security of these offices.

ITEM 2. The reports which SCHMUTZ submitted contained a variety of information on members of these offices; personality information, rumors, personal feuds, that kind of thing. Much of the material was mere squibs, three and four lines long, of biographical information where the man lives; where he works, etc.

ITEM 3. ALBERT transmitted to GELLEN everything from these reports to which he added information concerning the Col. THOMAS office which he had obviously obtained from SCHMUTZ orally. I say obviously, since information which got into GELLEN's hands from ALBERT was not contained in the copies of reports which SCHMUTZ had passed to ALBERT and which were found in ALBERT's house.

ITEM 4. Col. THOMAS' office was allegedly first in Bad Godesberg from 1952 until sometime in 1953 when it moved to Frankfurt. Late in 1953, SCHMUTZ indicated to ALBERT, who passed it on to GELLEN, that THOMAS' office was transferred to the direct control of CIA in Paris.

ITEM 5. The specific HBI's which Col. THOMAS gave to SCHMUTZ plus the reports which SCHMUTZ prepared in answer to these HBI's were passed to ALBERT and thence to GELLEN, and showed with relative clarity the progress which Col. THOMAS' office had been able to make against the various targets. It became apparent that SCHMUTZ had sources in most of the target areas. For example, his source on the HEIKZ case was a lawyer named KLEIN. KLEIN lives in Wiesbaden and has practically dropped his private practice to clear up the mystery of the HEIKZ case. SCHMUTZ sources in SO were ALBERT, who is a personal friend and apparently unwitting informant of SCHMUTZ; also one FRITZ LUTHERHOFF, who was a member of the Chancellor's bodyguard and

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then transferred to the squad in charge of the protection of the public buildings in Rome and finally, to the SO teletype room. It appears that SCHUTZ also had informants in the RTT, Ministry of Interior and the EMAN office, although these have not yet been identified.

ITEM 6. ALBERT was informed through SCHUTZ, who learned it through LAMBERT, of the impending SO roundup of the 14th of July, although the details didn't appear in the report which SCHUTZ passed to ALBERT. I can give you an idea later of just about what that report contained.

ITEM 7. SAVVENIS had informed SCHUTZ about the disciplinary action which was being carried on against SAVVENIS in connection with war crime accusations made against him while he was in Italy. He also passed remarks relative to his personal opinion about the way the SO was handled. Interestingly enough, neither of these two items was passed on by ALBERT to GRENZ.

ITEM 8. Insofar as BRUCKNER's remarks to me are concerned, they were that SCHUTZ, date unknown, asked his American chief, Cole KENNA, for a raise from 800 DM's to 850 DM's a month and a separation allowance of 220 DM's a month since he had to maintain two separate residences in order to carry on his work. These are the basic revelations from the studies of these two bodies of information (I am still on the 19th day of July and BRUCKNER's talk with me).

ITEM 9. SAVVENIS was interrogated in Karlsruhe on the 19th and the 20th of July as a witness, not accused, and his story contained the following items of primary interest - bear in mind that I did not have a recorder with me and I was able to jot down only the high points. SAVVENIS knew SCHUTZ during his police days and they had become good personal friends. SCHUTZ made no secret to SAVVENIS of the fact that he, SCHUTZ, worked for an American Intelligence Office. When SAVVENIS was charged with war crimes, in an effort to exonerate himself, he contacted GCA. He was able to provide from American files, a body of information which helped serve to exonerate him from the charges; however, that information was passed by GCA direct to the Ministry of Interior, not to SAVVENIS, and he had no indication of anything happening or how the Ministry was evaluating it, so knowing that SCHUTZ was working for the American office, he turned to SCHUTZ in hope that SCHUTZ's office could bring further pressure to bear - just another iron in the fire for SAVVENIS.

ITEM 10. In the course of his relationship with SCHUTZ, SAVVENIS did discuss his opinion of that was wrong with the leadership of the SO.

ITEM 11. When SAVVENIS returned from his interrogation on the 20th of July, SCHUTZ was waiting for him at SAVVENIS's house and asked him what he knew about the death of ALBERT. SCHUTZ was a very close family friend of ALBERT's and he had allegedly learned of ALBERT's death from Mrs. ALBERT. By impression is, and I can't guarantee this, that SAVVENIS did confirm the fact of ALBERT's death to SCHUTZ, nothing more. SAVVENIS also knew ALBERT directly, but this went away back to the 30's when SAVVENIS was instructor at the police school at which ALBERT was a student. They were not personal

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friends they had not seen each other except informally, usually and occasionally since the war. In other words, SUBJECTS' a crime, if crime it was, was allegedly (unintentional) nothing of official nature and nothing that probably doesn't go on in government circles all the time. There is really nothing on the book against SUBJECTS and information available does not incriminate him in any way other than his connection with these two items.

4. LERCHERY was interrogated in Karlsruhe on the 19th of July. I might interpolate here in saying that the names of both SALVATZ and LERCHERY were mentioned in a report which SCHWITZ had passed to Col. THOMAS, the official and given copy of which had gone to ALBERT, and reported fifty or fifty times of his sources and potential sources in the German government, and that is how the names of SALVATZ and LERCHERY came to the attention of the SO men. They were anxious to get to them as soon as possible. LERCHERY at first denied having furnished SCHWITZ any information. The day after he returned home from Karlsruhe, he called the Federal Attorney and said he'd like to make that denial and make another statement, which he did. His statement had in it the following points:

a. He had known both SCHWITZ and a man named Robert SCHWITZER during the war. SCHWITZER, like LERCHERY, was a Volkswirtschaftler (economic German) from Lithuania. They met - LERCHERY and SCHWITZ - in Bad Godesberg in 1951 by accident and had a reunion there about the old days in Lithuania. SCHWITZ again revealed to LERCHERY that he worked for an American intelligence office and after a number of local meetings with LERCHERY, asked if he would help him and his American office in filling some of the gaps in their information. LERCHERY claimed he couldn't do this because he was only a member of the Chancellor's bodyguard and as such, he had no access to such interests; however, he did supply a few equine which SCHWITZ appeared to be happy to get. Before long, SCHWITZ was paying LERCHERY 200 DM a month.

b. Sometime in 1951, LERCHERY was transferred to the teletype room of the SO and thus was able to furnish more interesting information, although still very brief reports, since the detailed stuff was always sent by dispatch. In early July, LERCHERY claims that SCHWITZ approached him, saying that his office had information that a large roundup of spies was to take place and asked if LERCHERY could supply some information on it. LERCHERY claimed that from his experience he knew that the Americans were receiving information officially from various German security offices and saw no reason why carrying out this request would be damaging to anyone, so he reported and this report was found in ALBERT's files; that a prisoner, who had been questioned in KERNSTADTER and was then removed to LITZ had offered information which had led to the SO roundup which was called "Operation WEIMAR". Also that BRECKEN was known to have visited Karlsruhe recently, possibly in connection with this planned operation, and that GERTZ had visited the SO on 17 June 1951, possibly also in connection with this operation. LERCHERY claimed to have received the information on the BRECKEN and GERTZ movements from colleagues of his in the course of informal chats. Shortly after the arrests were made between the 26 and 28th of July, SCHWITZ asked LERCHERY if he could confirm whether one Albert LINDIG or Ludwig ALBERT, had been arrested. (It is my impression that LERCHERY did confirm the arrest of ALBERT).

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5. The final item from HENCHOFF is that it was his impression that Col. THOMAS was to have met SCHWITZ in Bonn on the 16th of July. Now that is the story.

5. I'd like to give you HENCHOFF's comments. None of the information which SCHWITZ passed on to ALBERT contained any State secrets. They were largely rumors, gossip, and unofficial chatter. Secondly, SCHWITZ has not yet been interviewed nor has SCHWITZER. The reason I mentioned SCHWITZER in this connection is because it is not clear to me nor the SO whether SCHWITZER wanted for SCHWITZ only as a sub-source or whether he worked together with SCHWITZ directly for Col. THOMAS. HENCHOFF said when he heard the physical description of Col. THOMAS that I was Col. THOMAS. I pointed out to HENCHOFF that he had better take another look. First of all, I am slightly under two meters, five centimeters tall, and secondly, I don't think I can be described as "strong but not fat". That at once cleared up the matter. HENCHOFF did discuss these theories of his with both GEMER and the Federal Attorney in Karlsruhe but I am led to believe that I am off the hook with all parties. I pointed out that I'd hardly be conducting liaison with the office I am presently in. Thirdly, HENCHOFF has not discussed this case with any other US agencies and from his standpoint, will regard us as the middlemen in making inquiries of other US agencies. He asked if I would make inquiries in the rest of the intelligence community after I assured him that this was not our operation. In accepting this request of his, I made it clear to him that we stand in no operational relationship to any military agency and therefore, we can be responsible for no action taken by any military agency, either to make or not make SCHWITZ available for interrogation. He agrees not to take any action against SCHWITZ or SCHWITZER until he hears from me. That is the story.

6. I talked to HENCHOFF on the telephone the other night. He added that a Mr. "B" had been mentioned in some report which had been found - must be in the GEMER batch - in a contact which made it look as though Mr. "B" was either a colleague or the predecessor of Col. THOMAS. That is the only clue, we have no description or anything else. (Note: It has since emerged that this referred to Mr. Herbert BECHTOLD.)

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